

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

### *Status of Claims*

Claim 1 is currently amended.

Claims 9-15 were previously canceled.

Claims 1-8 and 16-27 are pending in the application.

Applicants hereby request further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application.

### *Claims Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103*

Claims 1-3, 7-8, 16-23, and 26-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goda et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,132,140 (hereinafter *Goda*) in view of Faur et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,613,697 (hereinafter *Faur*). Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Goda* in view of *Faur* and further in view of Zhao et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0118064 (hereinafter *Zhao*). Claims 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Goda* in view of *Faur* and further in view of Liang et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0173170 (hereinafter *Liang*). The pending claims stand or fall on the application of the cited references to amended independent claim 1. As noted by the United States Supreme Court in *Graham v. John Deere Co. of Kansas City*, an obviousness determination begins with a finding that “the prior art as a whole in one form or another contains all” the elements of the claimed invention. See *Graham v. John Deere Co. of Kansas City*, 383 U.S. 1, 22 (U.S. 1966).

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references in combination do not teach or suggest each and every limitation set forth in the pending claims, and therefore do not render as obvious the instant claims. Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite:

“A method for depositing an inorganic material from a reactive solution onto a substrate, comprising:  
chemically treating said substrate to activate growth of said inorganic material;  
immersing said substrate into said reactive solution; and  
**regenerating said reactive solution to allow for continuous growth of said inorganic material onto said substrate.**” (Claim 1, emphasis added)

Support for this amendment can be found in paragraph [0023] of the instant application. *Goda* does not disclose a method that allows for “**continuous growth** of said inorganic material onto said substrate.” This is supported by the disclosure of *Goda* wherein the treating solution is removed and resaturated with silicon dioxide before it can be used again. Specifically, *Goda* recites:

“In the present invention, at least a part of the treating solution **may be continuously taken out of the treating system** and circulated, while cooling and saturating it again by addition of silicon dioxide.”(Column 5, lines 52-55, emphasis added)

Thus, the solutions of *Goda* are removed from the treating system, cooled and saturated with silicon dioxide before being returned to the treating system. Growth of the inorganic material would occur upon return of the regenerated solution to the treating system and therefore, the growth is not continuous as claimed by Applicants. Further, the secondary references cannot remedy the omissions of *Goda* as they are also silent as to the Applicants’ claimed limitations. In consideration of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit the pending claims are patentable over the cited references.

## CONCLUSION

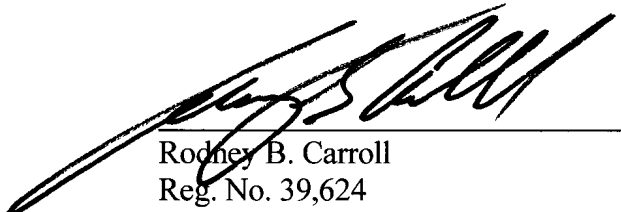
Consideration of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application, and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested by Applicants. No new matter is introduced by way of the amendment. It is believed that each ground of rejection raised in the Office Action dated August 22, 2008 has been fully addressed. If any fee is due as a result of the filing of this paper, please appropriately charge such fee to Deposit Account Number 50-1515 of Conley Rose, P.C., Texas. If a petition for extension of time is necessary in order for this paper to be deemed timely filed, please consider this a petition therefore.

If a telephone conference would facilitate the resolution of any issue or expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,  
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

11-21-08

  
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